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Third International Conference on Financing for Development

Addis Ababa, 13-16 July 2015

Item 10
Adoption of the outcome document of the Conference

Letter dated 29 July 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference

On behalf of my Government, I have the honour to transmit the statement made by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela during the closing meeting of the third International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Addis Ababa from 13 to 16 July 2015 (see annex). I hereby request that this statement be issued as a document of the Conference and thus be included in the final report.

(*Signed*) Rafael **Ramírez**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 29 July 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference

[Original: Spanish]

Explanations of position and reservations of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on the outcome document of the third International Conference on Financing for Development

On behalf of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, I would like to reiterate our recognition and gratitude to Ethiopia for its hospitality and leadership of the third International Conference on Financing for Development.

Our country fully endorses the statement made by South Africa in its capacity as the Chair of the Group of 77 and China, which represents the voice of 134 of the 193 States Members of the United Nations. In this connection, its work to ensure coordination, mediation and cohesion should be recognized. Undoubtedly, today, under its leadership, the Group of 77 and China stands before the world stronger and more united, in defence of the interests of the countries of the South, fully aware of the challenges that face us.

It is very important to clarify that our acceptance of this document in no way endorses its unbalanced content. We are responsibly acknowledging the strategic importance of financing for development, on the understanding that this is an open process that is not concluded today.

The developed countries' belief that with this outcome they are discharging their historical responsibilities to the nations and peoples of the South cannot be applauded, when the development they have achieved has been, for the most part, the result of the colonialism and neocolonialism imposed over the last 500 years.

We stress that the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities is not a mere slogan; it is what distinguishes the various development models, dominated to date by the model imposed by a predatory minority that has based its development on despoiling the environment and on breaking the will of the most vulnerable through the international division of labour, the extraction of natural resources with little value added or the imposition of unequal standards born of a colonial inheritance that still remains.

In adopting the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the outcome of this Conference, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela hereby submits its reservation and explanations of position on specific aspects and elements of the aforementioned document, as follows:

(a) The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela expresses its reservation with regard to paragraph 31. As pointed out at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, for the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on the basis of its Constitution, the reference to the removal of subsidies for fossil fuels has an interventionist character in the State's public policies. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela will not accept any kind of evaluation, monitoring, reporting and reviewing of our national energy policies and measures that impinge on our national

sovereignty. That paragraph, in addition, distances itself from and substantially modifies the lines agreed upon in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

(b) With regard to paragraph 60 and paragraph 69, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela does not accept the reference to low-carbon economies and the list of additional innovative mechanisms, especially the reference to carbon pricing mechanisms, for the same reasons expressed above.

(c) With regard to the concept of "modern energy for all", which is reflected in paragraph 49, we express our reservation to this concept as we did in relation to the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, "The future we want", because modern energy, in our view, implies the use of new technologies without the necessary evaluation of their application in a national context or of technological development priorities.

(d) We note with regret that paragraph 14 omits the reference introduced by the Group of 77 and China to initiatives that would ensure a broader supply of financing, in particular through the establishment of new multilateral development banks such as the Bank of the South, the Bank of ALBA and the ALBA Fund, to complement existing international institutions.

(e) We also regret the failure to include another of the items of interest to the Group of 77 and China, relating to our concern about trade barriers, such as coercive economic measures, including unilateral sanctions that seriously threaten trade and productive investments for peoples.

(f) Finally, it is appropriate to recall once again that the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is not a party to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and that the objection to the texts adopted in this document cannot be interpreted as a change of position on said Convention.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela requests that this statement be included as an integral part of the adoption of the outcome document and that it appear in the records of this Conference.